

§ 318. Special pay: special warfare officers extending period of active duty

(a) **SPECIAL WARFARE OFFICER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “special warfare officer” means an officer of a uniformed service who—

(1) is qualified for a military occupational specialty or designator identified by the Secretary concerned as a special warfare military occupational specialty or designator; and

(2) is serving in a position for which that specialty or designator is authorized.

(b) **RETENTION BONUS AUTHORIZED.**—A special warfare officer who meets the eligibility requirements specified in subsection (c) and who executes a written agreement to remain on active duty in special warfare service for at least one year may, upon the acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary concerned, be paid a retention bonus as provided in this section.

(c) **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—A special warfare officer may apply to enter into an agreement referred to in subsection (b) if the officer—

(1) is in pay grade O-3, or is in pay grade O-4 and is not on a list of officers recommended for promotion, at the time the officer applies to enter into the agreement;

(2) has completed at least 6, but not more than 14, years of active commissioned service; and

(3) has completed any service commitment incurred to be commissioned as an officer.

(d) **AMOUNT OF BONUS.**—The amount of a retention bonus paid under this section may not be more than \$15,000 for each year covered by the agreement.

(e) **PRORATION.**—The term of an agreement under subsection (b) and the amount of the retention bonus payable under subsection (d) may be prorated as long as the agreement does not extend beyond the date on which the officer executing the agreement would complete 14 years of active commissioned service.

(f) **PAYMENT METHODS.**—(1) Upon acceptance of an agreement under subsection (b) by the Secretary concerned, the total amount payable pursuant to the agreement becomes fixed.

(2) The amount of the retention bonus may be paid as follows:

(A) At the time the agreement is accepted by the Secretary concerned, the Secretary may make a lump sum payment equal to half the total amount payable under the agreement. The balance of the bonus amount shall be paid in equal annual installments on the anniversary of the acceptance of the agreement.

(B) The Secretary concerned may make graduated annual payments under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, with the first payment being payable at the time the agreement is accepted by the Secretary and subsequent payments being payable on the anniversary of the acceptance of the agreement.

(g) **ADDITIONAL PAY.**—A retention bonus paid under this section is in addition to any other pay and allowances to which an officer is entitled.

(h) **REPAYMENT.**—(1) If an officer who has entered into an agreement under subsection (b)

and has received all or part of a retention bonus under this section fails to complete the total period of active duty in special warfare service as specified in the agreement, the Secretary concerned may require the officer to repay the United States, on a pro rata basis and to the extent that the Secretary determines conditions and circumstances warrant, all sums paid the officer under this section.

(2) An obligation to repay the United States imposed under paragraph (1) is for all purposes a debt owed to the United States.

(3) A discharge in bankruptcy under title 11 that is entered less than five years after the termination of an agreement entered into under subsection (a)¹ does not discharge the officer signing the agreement from a debt arising under such agreement or under paragraph (1).

(i) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretaries concerned shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, including the definition of the term “special warfare service” for purposes of this section. Regulations prescribed by the Secretary of a military department under this section shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

(Added Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title VI, § 626(a)(1), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 655.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title VI, § 626(b), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 656, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1999.”

§ 319. Special pay: surface warfare officer continuation pay

(a) **ELIGIBLE SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “eligible surface warfare officer” means an officer of the Regular Navy or Naval Reserve on active duty who—

(1) is qualified and serving as a surface warfare officer;

(2) has been selected for assignment as a department head on a surface vessel; and

(3) has completed any service commitment incurred through the officer's original commissioning program.

(b) **SPECIAL PAY AUTHORIZED.**—An eligible surface warfare officer who executes a written agreement to remain on active duty to complete one or more tours of duty to which the officer may be ordered as a department head on a surface vessel may, upon the acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary of the Navy, be paid an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

(c) **PRORATION.**—The term of the written agreement under subsection (b) and the amount payable under the agreement may be prorated.

(d) **PAYMENT METHODS.**—Upon acceptance of the written agreement under subsection (b) by the Secretary of the Navy, the total amount payable pursuant to the agreement becomes fixed. The Secretary shall prepare an implementation plan specifying the amount of each installment payment under the agreement and the times for payment of the installments.

¹ So in original. Probably should be subsection “(b)”.